

Claims

1. A condom having applied to its external surface a vasodilator active compound and being coated with a lubricant, characterised in that the vasodilator active compound is disposed on the external condom surface in a form or within a composition which is immiscible with the lubricant.
2. A condom according to claim 1, in which the vasodilator active compound is disposed towards the open end of the condom.
3. A condom according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the active compound is applied as a composition which includes a carrier material with which the vasodilator compound is miscible but which will release the vasodilator active compound when in contact with body tissue.
4. A condom according to any preceding claim, in which the lubricant is buffered to a pH between 3 and 5.
5. A condom according to any preceding claim, in which the condom includes a textured or undulating region to the external surface.
6. A condom according to claim 5, in which the textured or undulating region extends at least towards the open end of the condom and incorporates or includes the vasodilator active compound.
7. A condom according to claim 6, in which the textured or undulating region is formed from one or more layers of material including the material from which the condom itself is formed, the material of at least one such layer being miscible with the vasodilator and allowing the vasodilator to be absorbed by skin or tissue when brought in contact with the condom.
8. A condom according to any preceding claim, in which the vasodilator active compound is selected from nitrates, long and short acting alpha-adrenoceptor blockers, ergot alkaloids, anti-hypertensives, the prostaglandins and phosphodiesterase inhibitors optionally in combination with a skin penetration enhancer.
9. A condom according to claim 8, in which the vasodilator active compound comprises an organic nitrate applied as a layer or coating in a polar elastomer in solution, in the form of an aqueous dispersion of latex or by a hot melt or reactive process.
10. A condom according to any preceding claim, in which the active compound optionally together with a skin penetration enhancer is applied to the condom as a composition dispersed or dissolved in a gel carrier comprising a liquid medium and a thickening agent.